اللجنة الاسلامية الدولية لحقوق الانسان

International Islamic Commission on Human Rights

La Commission Islamique Internationale
pour les Droits de l'Homme

21 June 1991

H E Monsieur François Mitterrand
President of France

Excellency,

We are deeply shocked at the arrest yesterday of Abdelmoumem Diouri. Our information is that, on his return from Spain, he was apprehended in front of his house by the security forces, not allowed to see his wife or children, and deported to Gabon. He requested that, if he were not allowed to stay in France, he be sent to Switzerland or Algeria but this was refused. In view of the fact that he has enjoyed political asylum in France for the last 16 years this action seems extraordinary and we cannot believe it was taken with your knowledge.

Mr Diouri is of course well-known for his opposition to King Hassan II and it is impossible not to remember the fate of Ben Barka and the dishonour that that brought to France. We appeal to you to act immediately to ensure the safety of Mr Diouri, to ascertain the truth behind these events, and, for the honour of France and for your personal good name, to allow Mr Diouri to return to France to live under the asylum which was once granted him.

Yours sincerely,

Ebrahimsa

Ebrahimsa Mohamed

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH London SW1

المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

21 June 1991

The Editor
Le Monde [Paris]

Dear Editor,

Yesterday Mr Abdelmoumem Diouri, a leading Moroccan opposition politican, was arrested in Paris by French security forces. He was returning to his home in Paris from a visit to Spain. He was not allowed to enter his house to see his wife and children, was taken to the airport and deported to Gabon.He requested, if he were not allowed to stay in France, that he be sent to Switzerland or Algeria. This was refused.

I am sure you are aware that Mr Diouri is well-known for his opposition to King Hassan II. Both his parents were killed by the Moroccan security forces. He himself has been living in France for the last 16 years under political asylum. He has recently written a book , not yet published, which is strongly critical of King Hassan and his regime, and we have reason to believe that this lies behind the action taken by the French authorities yesterday.

You will remember the case of Ben Barka which brought great dishonour to France. We are very seriously concerned about the similarities between that case and this and worried for the safety of Mr Diouri. We have information that there are numbers of Moroccans working with the security forces in Gabon and believe that could be why Mr Diouri has been sent there rather than elsewhere. Moreover, he could be sent from there to Morocco where of course he would be in great danger.

I appeal to you to use your influence as editor of one the world's leading newspapers to publicise these facts in an effort to secure the safety of Mr Diouri's life, and the good name of France.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH

[also to ~~the~~ some members of the British & European Parliaments]

المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

21 June 1991

Mr Ian Martin
Amnesty International
1 Easton St
London WC1X 8DJ

Dear Mr Martin,

Yesterday Mr Abdelmoumem Diouri, a leading Moroccan opposition politican, was arrested in Paris by French security forces. He was returning to his home in Paris from a visit to Spain. He was not allowed to enter his house to see his wife and children, was taken to the airport and deported to Gabon.He requested, if he were not allowed to stay in France, that he be sent to Switzerland or Algeria. This was refused.

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I appeal to you to intercede with the French government immediately for we fear the worst for Mr Diouri.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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